



CWDI JOINS GLOBAL DATABANK OF WOMEN FOR BOARD SEATS

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The European Business Schools/Women on Board initiative of which the Corporate Women Directors International (CWDI) is a founding partner today announced the formal establishment of the Global Board Ready Women (GBRW) searchable database to respond to global corporate governance needs for more gender diversity on publicly quoted company boards in Europe.

During the last year and a half, Europe's leading business schools have been working with the European Commission and Senior Executive Women to produce a Call to Action Selection Criteria Guidelines and a growing list of now more than 8,000 Board Ready Women. This list of 8,000 Board Ready Women is currently being migrated into the Global Board Ready Women searchable database.

“There is clear momentum globally to increase women's access to board seats. This database provides a ready pipeline of women qualified to serve on the boards of top companies worldwide,” states Irene Natividad, Chair of Corporate Women Directors International. “For countries with quotas for women directors, stock exchanges with board diversity as listing requirements and for countries whose corporate governance code now includes the need for diverse boards, this database is a ready resource that can be tapped immediately.”

The **"Global Board Ready Women"** searchable database list and forum will be administered by the Financial Times Non-Executive Directors' Club on the global business platform, LinkedIn. The Group consists of women who already serve on a board or who are ready to take on a new mandate. All women listed in the Global Board Ready Women (GBRW) searchable database are suitable to be considered for publicly listed company board-level positions and meet a clear set of criteria as developed and defined over the last year and a half by the organization members of the European Business Schools/Women on Board initiative (see below).

In addition, the European Business Schools/Women on Board initiative has arranged for each of the individuals selected for the Global Board Ready Women (GBRW) searchable database to be linked with BoardEx 's Profiles and to access BoardEx's database of more than 500,000 corporations and companies.

Lesley Stephenson, Publisher of the FT Non Executive Directors' Club and member of the European Business Schools/Women on Board initiative commented that the "Global Board Ready Women group launched today will provide executive search firms, companies and investors and those looking to make board appointments with a list of board qualified women. Women in the Group can ensure that their profiles and experience are kept up to date while companies and recruiters can easily search and identify those candidates whose experience most closely match their requirements and contact them directly."

Sherry Coutu, herself Member of the Advisory Board of LinkedIn commented, "I'm extremely pleased to be part of this initiative to identify and promote the profiles of the board-ready women in the quest for a more transparent and balanced corporate governance. LinkedIn is the perfect platform for this Global Board Ready Women searchable database".

European Commission Vice President Reding commented, "We need to use all of our society's talents to ensure that Europe's economy takes off. That is why the European Commission has proposed a European law for boosting gender balance in company board rooms," said Vice-President Viviane Reding, EU Justice Commissioner. "I often hear the argument that there are not enough qualified women to occupy positions in the boardroom. Today European Business Schools are shattering those myths as well as glass ceilings! The searchable database currently being populated shows that the qualified women are there – 8 000 of them. Companies should now make use of this untapped pool of talent."

For more information via CWDI, please contact: Larry Grady – cwdi@globewomen.org

About CWDI:

Corporate Women Directors International (CWDI) promotes the increased participation of women in corporate boards globally, fosters national and international networks to link women directors, and seeks to hone directors' skills in corporate governance. To provide baseline information from which women's progress on corporate boards can be measured, CWDI has conducted research internationally since 1996 to identify women corporate board members in Australia, Canada, Japan, South Africa, Spain, and the United States, as well as regional and global reports covering top companies and their record on board diversity. CWDI has also issued industry-specific studies resulting in 20 reports in 16 years.

In addition, CWDI has held roundtables on corporate governance in several cities globally for women directors and executives. The most recent brought together business and government leaders convened with the World Bank in

Washington, DC, to share board diversity initiatives from several countries. CWDI has also organized Market Opens with women business leaders at NASDAQ in New York, and at stock exchanges in Toronto; Johannesburg, South Africa; Istanbul; Madrid; Barcelona, Warsaw; Sao Paolo; and Hong Kong. In each instance, it was the first time that women participated in ringing the opening bell in these Exchanges.

For more information about CWDI or its publications, please contact Corporate Women Directors' Washington, D.C. headquarters at cwdi@globewomen.com.

Business Schools Members of the European Business School / Women On Boards Initiative include:

Bocconi, Cambridge Judge Business School, EADA, EDHEC Business School, EFMD, ESMT, ESSEC, HR College of Commerce and Economics, IAUW – International Association of University Women, IESE, IFPM Female Board Pool at the University of St.Gallen, IMD, INSEAD, Kellogg School of Management, London Business School, Oxford, RSM, Sabanci University, SKEMA, University of Mumbai

Professional Organizations include:

American Chamber of Commerce France and Spain, Bellisario Foundation, BoardEx, Business and Industry Advisory Council, Canadian Women in Communications, Corporate Women Directors International (CWDI), Deutscher Juristinnenbund e.V., EPWN (European Professional Women's Network), Forte Foundation – Major Corporations and Business Schools, The Financial Times Non-Executive Directors' Club, G16+, GTWN - The Global Telecom Women's Network, GGI – Geneva Group International, IFA Institut Francais des Administrateurs, International Corporate Women Directors, TIAW - The International Alliance for Women, WiTT - Women in Telecoms and Technology, WCD - Women Corporate Directors, Women's Forum of New York

Corporate Women supporters include:

Lady Barbara Judge, Bridget Cosgrave, Lori Gonnu, Cristina Vicini, Lesley Stephenson, Brigitte Boone, Candace Johnson, Audrey Mandela, Diane Morgan, Irene Natividad, Anne Negre, Indu Shahani, Susan Ness, Marina Niforos, Ingrid Silver, Susan Stautberg, Myla Villanueva.